

**Benjamin H. Latrobe to Thomas Jefferson, October 28, 1817, from Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital.  
Edited by Saul K. Padover.**

**Latrobe to Jefferson**

*Washington, Octr 28th 1817 recd Nov. 4*

THOS JEFFERSON ESQR

*Monticello*

*Dear Sir*

I thank you for your letter of the 7<sup>3</sup>, & am much gratified by the approbation you express of my drawings. I hope you will do me the favor to let me know which of the pavilions you approve for your first work of next spring; with a sketch of its dimensions and its plan, that I may send you the working drawings & the details at large.

73 Blank space in original ms.

Some months ago, I sent to Jefferson & Gibson of Richmond a box for you, containing a Capital composed of Tobacco leaves & flowers. It is a cheap one, & of course cannot be expected to have great effect. If you can find a place for it, I would recommend that it be painted, & that the leaves of the upper tier, be colored in the lower part with a faint brown (umber), as I shall do in the rotunda of 16 Columns in the North wing of the Capitol, in which I have applied them. Otherwise they do not sufficiently distinguish themselves.

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We are getting on with the Capitol, as well as we can under a system not calculated for dispatch. Nothing but want of time has prevented

my making for you a set of plans showing all the changes which the interior of the Capitol has undergone, much, I think, for the better accomodation of both houses of Congress.

Believe me with sincere attachment & respect Yrs

B Henry Latrobe

[Ms., *Jefferson Papers*, Library of Congress.]